
◆ DMR LOBSTER NEWSLETTER ◆

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter – February 2004

Maine Fishermen's Forum 2004 – March 4th, 5th & 6th (Schedule Subject to Change)

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004

10:00 – 4:30 pm What Can You Do To Save Maine's Working Waterfront?
1:00 – 5:00 pm Maine Softshell Clam Advisory Council

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2004

9:00 – 10:15 am PEW Ocean Commission and Congress's National Ocean Commission
10:00 – 12:00 pm Mussel Raft Culture Working Group
9:00 – 10:15 am The Yellowtail Study
9:00 – 10:15 pm US/Canada Ventless Trap Project Update and DMR Lobster Science Updates
9:00 – 10:15 am Commercial Fishing Safety Version of "Cops," Lessons Learned from Accidents at Sea
9:00 – 3:00 pm Public Health Nursing Free Blood Pressure Checks and Information Resource
10:30 – 12:00 pm Dealer and Harvester Reporting in Maine
10:30 – 12:00 pm Fishermen's Perspectives on Cooperative Research: Results and Impacts of Gear Design & Biological Research
10:30 – 12:00 pm "B" Days-at-Sea? What are they? Will they be utilized?
10:30 – 12:00 pm Gulf of Maine Lobster/Oceanography Studies & Lobster Shell Disease
1:00 – 2:30 pm Bay Management – What is it? And what does it mean for the coast of Maine?
12:00 – 2:30 pm NEFMC Scoping Meeting on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
1:00 – 2:30 pm Separate Monkfish & Groundfish Days-at-Sea
1:00 – 2:30 pm Whale Update & New Lobster Model and Universal Max Gauge
2:45 – 4:30 pm Ecolabeled Products
2:45 – 4:30 pm Atlantic Herring Fishery Management and Science Update
2:45 – 4:30 pm Northeast Regional Cod Tagging Program: The First Year's Results, What We Have Learned, and How Will it Affect the 2nd Year?
2:45 – 4:30 pm Disaster Planning for the Lobster Industry & Stories of Successes and Failures

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2004

9:00 – 10:15 am Access to Fisheries and Community Based Management Session 1
9:00 – 10:15 am GoMOOS: Changes in temperature, changes in fish?
9:00 – 10:15 am Maine Lobster Boat Racing, 2004 Season
9:00 – 12:00 pm Many Maine Fishermen – One Voice?
9:00 – 10:15 am What is a Stock, What is a Population and Why It Might Matter to Those Who Fish?
9:00 – 5:00 pm Maine Coast Lobster Groundline Video Survey
10:00 – 12:00 pm Access to Fisheries and Community Based Management Session 2
10:00 – 12:00 pm "Maine Aquaculture Feast"
10:30 – 12:00 pm 50 Years and Going Strong! Maine Lobstermen's Association Annual Meeting
10:30 – 12:00 Breaking Down the Barriers: Fishermen, Scientists and the Media
1:00 – 2:30 pm Women Warriors: A Photo Documentary Study of Contemporary Women in the Maine Fishing Industry
1:00 – 2:30 pm Marine Safety Recovery Device
1:00 – 2:30 pm The Department of Marine Resources – A Draft Plan for the Future – Funding to Meet the Needs
1:00 – 2:30 pm Urchins
2:45 – 4:30 pm Lobstermen's Workshop Hazards Project
2:45 – 4:30 pm Governor's Task Force on Maine's Groundfish Industry
2:45 – 4:30 pm MPAs One Year Later - - Revisiting Marine Protected Areas as A Tool for Fisheries
2:45 – 4:30 pm Scallop Gear Research & Discussion

Lobster Summit Draft Agenda*Friday, March 5, 2004, 9am to 4:30pm**Rockport Room at the Samoset, Maine Fishermen's Forum***SCIENCE****9:00 am****60 min****US & Canada Lobstermen Working to Improve our Understanding of the Lobster Resource: US/Canada Lobster Recruitment Project Update (Ventless Traps)**

Come and learn more about this unique collaboration between lobstermen from the US and Canada. Both FSRS and GOMLF will provide an update on the progress made with the Action Plan developed last winter. The FSRS will provide an overview of their 5 Year Project Review and DFO will discuss the use of this recruitment project data in developing exploitation rates and explain how this data is used in the Canadian stock assessment.

Speakers:

- § Patty King & Carl MacDonald, Fishermen and Scientist Research Society (FSRS)
- § Ross Claytor, Canada Dept of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
- § Erin Pelletier, Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation (GOMLF)

10:00 am**30 min****Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Lobster Science Updates**

DMR scientists will provide an overview of results of Maine's sea sampling, port sampling and trawl surveys and discuss what these data tell us about the lobster resource.

Speakers:

- § Alison Sirois, Maine Dept of Marine Resources
- § Mark Gosselin, Maine Dept of Marine Resources
- § Sally Sherman, Maine Dept of Marine Resources

Moderator:

- § Carl Wilson, Maine Dept of Marine Resources

10:30 am**Break****10:45 am****45 min****Using Oceanography to Understand the Gulf of Maine Lobster Resource**

Learn more about the exciting NOAA synthesis study which grew out of the work done in the Pen Bay area to better understand how oceanography affects lobster larval transport. This is a major scientific effort in Maine involving most of our top lobster scientists. Also learn about a complementary study which endeavors to validate numerical ocean circulation models with lobstermen which will be deployed from June-September 2004 in transects off of Cutler, Isle au Haut, Cape Small, and Gloucester resulting in as many as 100 drifters may be floating off the coast of New England this summer.

Speakers:

- § Dr. Lew Incze, Bioscience Research Institute, University of Southern Maine
- § Jim Manning, New England Fisheries Science Center, NMFS

11:30 am**45 min****Lobster Shell Disease**

New England's lobster health and shell disease experts will provide an overview on the initial observations of shell disease in the region, what we've observed in Maine, an overview of the pathology of the disease in Maine and what that all means for lobster health.

Speakers:

- § Dr. Kathy Castro, University of Rhode Island
- § Carl Wilson, Maine Dept of Marine Resources
- § Dr. Charles O'Kelly, Bigelow Lab
- § Bob Bayer, Lobster Institute

12:15 pm**Break for Lunch (not provided)**

*Lobster Summit Draft Agenda (Cont'd)***MANAGEMENT****1:00 pm****What's New with Whale Regulations**

Learn what's in store for lobstermen with respect to whale regulations and find out what the DMR has learned from the extensive underwater video study (ROV) conducted last fall.

*15 min*Speakers:

Terry Stockwell, Maine Dept of Marine Resources

Pat White, Maine Lobstermen's Association

1:15 pm**Developing and Testing a New Stock Assessment Framework for the American Lobster in the Gulf of Maine**

So, there's a NEW lobster model in the works? What is it? How does it work? And most importantly, what will it mean for future lobster stock assessment and management?

*45 min*Speaker:

Š Dr. Yong Chen, University of Maine

2:00 pm**Universal Maximum Gauge**

What are the biological reasons for having an oversize measure? How does it benefit the resource? How is it quantified in lobster models for stock assessment? With these questions answered, the industry will discuss the pro's and con's of establishing a universal oversize measure in the Gulf of Maine region.

*60 min*Speaker:

Š Carl Wilson, Maine Dept of Marine Resources

Š Susan Waddy, Canadian Dept of Fisheries and Oceans (tentative)

Moderator:

Š Pat White, Maine Lobstermen's Association

3:00 pm**Disaster Planning – What would the lobster industry do if...**

What would happen to the lobster industry IF we experienced a disaster? How would we respond? The sky may not be falling yet, but there are plenty of realistic scenarios such as shell disease or a landings collapse. We don't have to look too far to the south. How does/can management respond to unexpected crises? Is there anything the lobster industry can do to prepare for a disaster? Can we better monitor the situation through harvester landings reports?

*45 min*Moderator:

Š Pat White, Maine Lobstermen's Association

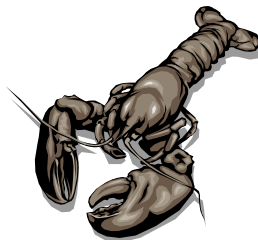
Š George Lapointe or David Etnier, Maine DMR (tentative)

3:45 pm**Stories of Success and Failure to Think About**

Come and learn more about some unique initiatives undertaken by the fishing industry in other areas to conserve the lobster resource.

*30 min*Speakers:

Š George Feltham, Eastport Lobster Conservation Area, Newfoundland



Marine Patrol News

Retirements:

MPO Brian Norton retired from the Maine Marine Patrol in October 2003 with over 20 years of service. Officer Norton was assigned to the So. Portland area and the Patrol Vessel "Vigilant." Many retirees attended Officer Norton's retirement party.

Personnel Awards and Updates:

Sgt. Jay Carroll, Division II, Section 6, Supervisor which covers the Downeast area was awarded the Department of Marine Resource's Employee of the Year Award. Sgt. Carroll was first assigned to the Rockland area as a Marine Patrol Officer and then transferred to the Mount Desert Island patrol. He was then promoted to boat specialist and was assigned to Rockland.

MPO Scott Couture remains in Iraq to finish out his extended tour. MPO Couture was home for a surprise visit after Christmas for two weeks. Scott is in hopes that he will return from Iraq in June of 2004 after spending close to two years over there. We continue to hope for his safe return to Maine.

We would like to welcome Evelyn Matheson, the new Marine Patrol Clerk Typist III for the Division II office, which covers from the Saint George River East to the Canadian Border.

Marine Patrol Vessels:

Marine Patrol Commissioned their latest Patrol Vessel "Challenge II" on January 23, 2004, at the USCG Station in So. Portland. This is a 46' Jarvis Newman lobster style boat, finished by Wesmac. The patrol vessel will be stationed in the Portland area, giving Marine Patrol the capability to handle offshore details. Partial funding for this vessel was due in part with our contract with National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Law Enforcement. Leta Etheridge of the NMFS/OLE commissioned this vessel.

The Patrol Vessel "Guardian III" was part of a detail that involved the Massachusetts Environmental Police during the Dynamic Area Management (DAM) closure and operated out of Kittery. This was a huge success and once again proved to outside agencies how capable our Marine Patrol Officers are in the hauling and handling of offshore gear.

Seed Lobster Program:

This year Marine Patrol Officers liberated 2,484 pounds of seed lobsters under the Seed Lobster Program. This was down from last year, where officers liberated 5,756 pounds.

The Marine Patrol, in its continued effort to demonstrate the commitment of Maine fishermen to the whale take reduction gear modifications, patrolled the recent DAM to reaffirm the high level of compliance off-shore. These patrols were hampered somewhat by weather, but our intent was again to reinforce our willingness to support the industry in safeguarding the whales and our fishermen's livelihood.

Lobster Management Zones Go All the Way to EEZ

Marine Patrol has received many questions lately regarding the issue of lobster management zone lines extending beyond the three-mile limit. There is a misunderstanding within the fishing community that once the zone line reaches the three-mile line, it stops. This is not true. When the lobster management zones were set up, the lines were extended all the way to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This is important to know and understand due to the provision in the law that requires a fisherman to fish the majority of the gear he is fishing in his declared zone. When making application for your lobster and crab license, you must declare one zone in which you will fish the majority of your gear. If you will be fishing in a zone other than your declared zone, you must check that zone as well when making application.

If you have further questions, please contact Marine Patrol in Boothbay at 633-9595 or Lamoine at 667-3373.

***Law Enforcement Committee Recommendation to the
ASMFC Lobster Management Board Regarding Removable Lobster Trap Tags***

~~#~~Lobster trap tags are not removable and are permanently attached to traps.

~~#~~All lobster tags shall not be transferable once attached to a trap.

~~#~~This recommendation has unanimous support within the Law Enforcement Committee.

~~#~~Allowing trap tags to be transferable would render the trap tag program unenforceable. A major component for law enforcement is the inspection of lobster traps by patrol officers when traps are being moved from the shore to the fishing grounds. Removable tags could be removed from traps just prior to them being set. These removable tags could be brought back to shore and reused.

~~#~~Canada has had a trap tag program since 1969. One of the major enforcement issues they had was the allowance of removable tags. After several years of trying to resolve this issue, the industry and law enforcement strongly recommended to their management board to require tags to be permanently attached to traps.

~~#~~During the development of our trap tag program, I had the opportunity to talk with Canadian lobster fishermen and law enforcement officials concerning trap tag enforcement. Removable trap tags were their number one issue. They all told me that Maine should not make the same mistake they had made. Do not allow removable tags. They tried it and it did not work. Honest fishermen were forced to cheat; they could not compete with fishermen that were circumventing the trap limit.

Maine Marine Patrol Awards Committee Seeking Nominations

Maine Marine Patrol Awards Committee seeking nominations for its annual awards in three categories. The special recognition has long been a part of the Bureau of Marine Patrol tradition. For 2004 awards, however, officers are also reaching out to the waterfront community for both nominations and possible recipients.

Two awards, commendation and life saving, are open to anyone and the third, meritorious service, is given only to Marine Patrol personnel.

When considering someone for a nomination, the Committee said it is looking for people who have taken on difficult tasks and made them happen, or put their own lives on the line to help someone. The Committee is looking for people that have truly gone above and beyond.

The commendation award is given for achievement that demonstrates unusual initiative or skill and that contributes to accomplishing the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) or bureau's mission, the welfare of the fisheries, and betterment of the community.

Life saving recognition is awarded for an actual or attempted rescue; to remove someone from harm's way at the risk to one's self. The award is not limited to water rescues.

The meritorious service award is the highest service award to Marine Patrol personnel. It is given for outstanding achievement in performance of duty.

The awards will be presented at the annual in-service training event in June at the DMR facility in West Boothbay Harbor.

The Committee wants written nominations that describe the heroic act or accomplishment in the year 2003. The nomination deadline is March 1, 2004.

Nominations should be sent to Awards Committee, c/o DMR State House Station 21, Augusta ME 04333.

For more information, call Cathy Fetterman at (207) 624-6571.

Marine Patrol Adjudication Report

Last Name	First Name	Offense Date	Location	Description	Disp. Date	Disp.	Fine
ADAMS	MATHEW	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	Molesting lobster gear	28-Jul-03	G	500
ADAMS	MATHEW	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	possession of five (5) short lobsters	28-Jul-03	G	175
ADAMS	MATHEW	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	possession of v-notched female lobsters	28-Jul-03	G	100
ALESSI	ROBERT	28-Jun-03	ELIOT	lobster fishing without a license	16-Jul-03	G	246.4
AMES	PETER	5-Jun-03	SPRUCE HEAD	Short lobsters-poss. of four (4) undersized lobsters	8-Jul-03	G	150
AMES	DWAYNE	23-Jun-03	MATINICUS ISLAND	Short lobsters-poss. of seven (7) short lobsters	12-Aug-03	G	175
AMES	TROY	1-Jul-03	MATINICUS ISLAND	Short lobsters-poss. of six (6) short lobsters	12-Aug-03	FTA	225
ANTHONY	JOSHUA	18-Jul-03	VINALHAVEN	Lobster and crab fishing licenses	2-Sep-03	DEF	200
ARONSON	MARC	21-Jun-03	BEALS	Short lobsters-poss. of seven (7) short lobsters	1-Jul-03	G	275
BAILEY	MARK	7-Jun-03	BOOTHBAY	possession of ten (10) short lobsters	7-Jul-03	G	425
BAILEY	JUSTIN	30-Aug-03	WISCASSET	Molesting lobster gear	27-Oct-03	G	500
BAILEY	JUSTIN	30-Aug-03	WISCASSET	possession of three (3) short lobsters	27-Oct-03	G	125
BEAUCAGE	ALAN	30-Aug-03	WISCASSET	Molesting lobster gear	27-Oct-03	G	500
BEAUCAGE	ALAN	30-Aug-03	WISCASSET	possession of three (3) short lobsters	27-Oct-03	G	125
BENN	ADAM	21-Jun-03	KITTERY	possession of four (4) short lobsters	14-Aug-03	G	182.5
BENN	ADAM	21-Jun-03	KITTERY	taking lobsters by unconventional method	14-Aug-03	G	182.5
BOLDUC	KEVIN	10-May-03	BIDDEFORD	possession of one (1) female mutilated v-notch lobster	17-Jun-03	G	55
BROWN	JULIE	19-Sep-03	NORTH HAVEN	Short lobsters-poss. of five (5) undersized lobsters	3-Oct-03	G	175
BUTMAN	ADAM	19-Jul-03	SPRUCE HEAD	25.08 fishing forty (40) traps w/o valid tags	3-Sep-03	G	2310
CARL III	CHARLES	11-Jul-03	FRENCHBORO	CH 25.08-Fishing twenty (20) untagged lobster traps	11-Sep-03	G	500
CHICK	JUSTIN	25-Jul-03	WELLS	possession of two oversized lobsters	11-Sep-03	G	113.5
COTTON	JOHN	13-Jul-03	ROCKLAND	25.08 Lobster trap tag system	13-Nov-03	G	1000
CROCHERE	STEVEN	7-Jul-03	VINALHAVEN	Engaged in L&C fishing w/o license	12-Aug-03	DEF	250
CUNNINGHAM	CHARLES	6-Jun-03	MACHIAS	Short lobsters-poss. of two (2) undersized lobsters	8-Jul-03	G	100
CURTIS	CHRISTOPHER	22-Mar-03	PORT CLYDE	Lobstering w/o license	3-Jun-03	G	236
CURTIS	TONY	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	Molesting lobster gear	28-Jul-03	G	500
CURTIS	TONY	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	possession of five (5) short lobsters	28-Jul-03	G	175
CURTIS	TONY	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	possession of one (1) female lobster with mutilated tail	28-Jul-03	G	100
DELAND	MATTHEW	5-Aug-03	FRIENDSHIP	fishing untagged lobster traps to wit: 7 traps	23-Sep-03	G	350
DENTREMONT	HOWARD	25-Oct-03	SWANS ISLAND	possession of 7 short lobsters	13-Nov-03	G	326.25
DODGE	CATHERINE	1-Sep-03	DAMARISCOTTA	possession of one (1) female egg bearing lobster	21-Nov-03	G	150
DOODY	DAN	2-Aug-03	PORTLAND	Possession to two (2) v-notched remale lobsters	23-Sep-03	G	150
DOODY	DAN	2-Aug-03	PORTLAND	lobstering without a license	23-Sep-03	G	200
GAGNON	MICHAEL	14-Jul-03	BIDDEFORD	lobster fishing without a Class I license	19-Aug-03	G	236
GAGNON	SCOTT	14-Jul-03	BIDDEFORD	possession of nine (9) short lobsters	19-Aug-03	G	375
GAMAGE SR	NORMAN	7-Jun-03	SOUTH THOMASTON	Short lobsters-poss. of four (4) undersized lobsters	8-Jul-03	G	182.5
GENTHNER	GARY	19-Aug-03	BRISTOL	25.85 fishing for lobsters with an obstructed vent	19-Aug-03	G	500
GENTHNER	GARY	12-Aug-03	BRISTOL	25.15 violation of mandatory v-notching requirement: retaining twenty (20) female egg bearing lobsters	22-Sep-03	DISM	NULL
GENTHNER	GLENN	12-Sep-03	BRISTOL	hauling lobster traps during a closed period.	9-Oct-03	G	100
GEYER	ZACHARY	26-Sep-03	BRISTOL	selling six (6) v-notch/mutilated lobsters	21-Nov-03	G	225
GOOGINS	KEITH	18-Apr-03	SCARBOROUGH	possession of three (3) short	13-Nov-03	G	125
GRANT	ROBERT	28-Jun-03	ELIOT	possession of three (3) short lobsters	11-Jul-03	G	125
GRANT	NATHANEIL	17-Jul-03	PORTLAND	possession of two (2) untagged lobster traps while being actively fished	25-Jul-03	G	250
GRAY	ROBERT	13-Jun-03	GOULDSBORO	25.08 Fishing two untagged L&C traps	22-Jul-03	G	100
GRAY	KENNETH	12-Jul-03	MOUNT DESERT	Hauling lobster traps during closed period	17-Nov-03	G	100
HANNA	FRED	21-Sep-03	BRISTOL	hauling a lobster trap without the registered owner aboard	21-Nov-03	G	100
HANNA	FRED	21-Sep-03	BRISTOL	possession of one (1) short lobster	21-Nov-03	G	75
HENDERSON	JAY	2-Aug-03	HARPSWELL	Lobster and Crab fishing during a closed period (after 4pm Saturday)	5-Nov-03	G	50
HILBOURNE	ADAM	24-Mar-03	YORK	lobster fishing without a license	15-May-03	G	246.4
HILBOURNE	DALE	24-Mar-03	YORK	lobster fishing without a license	15-May-03	G	276
HOLLAND	THOMAS	12-Jul-03	BIDDEFORD	possession of one (1) short lobster (1 out of 3)	19-Aug-03	G	75
HOUGHTON	AUSTIN	10-Jul-03	HARRINGTON	Short lobsters-poss. of three undersized lobsters	29-Jul-03	G	153.75
HOWARD	PAUL	26-Jul-03	THOMASTON	no lobster license	2-Sep-03	FTA	250
HUCKINS	BARRY	21-Jun-03	LUBEC	Short lobsters-poss. of two (2) undersized lobsters	31-Jul-03	G	100

Marine Patrol Adjudication Report (Cont'd)

Last Name	First Name	Offense Date	Location	Description	Disp. Date	Disp.	Fine
JOHNSON	KITTRIDGE	17-Jul-03	WINTER HARBOR	Short lobsters-poss. of three (3) short lobsters	28-Jul-03	G	125
JOSLYN JR	GARY	9-Sep-03	HARPSWELL	Engaging in activities while under suspension	18-Nov-03	G	176
JOYCE	MATTHEW	10-Sep-03	SWANS ISLAND	29.90 Lobstering in Swans Island zone without a permit	6-Oct-03	G	250
KELLEY	BRYAN	5-Jun-03	GEORGETOWN	25.08 fishing lobster gear without current tag	12-Aug-03	G	50
KENNEDY	COLE	19-Jul-03	MILBRIDGE	Hauling lobster traps during a closed period	3-Sep-03	G	100
KENNEY	MICHAEL	27-Jun-03	EAST BOOTHBAY	possession of two (2) short lobsters	25-Aug-03	G	125
KRAMP	MICHAEL	29-May-03	WINTER HARBOR	Short lobsters-poss. of eleven (11) short lobsters	24-Jun-03	G	475
LAWSON	GEORGE	27-Jul-03	SWANS ISLAND	25.08 violation of regulation, to wit: fishing twenty (20) untagged lobster traps	18-Dec-03	G	500
LEWIS	SETH	27-Aug-03	BOOTHBAY HARBOR	fishing with illegal escape vents	10-Sep-03	G	100
LOVEJOY	PAUL	23-Aug-02	KENNEBUNK	molesting lobster gear to wit: one (1) trap belonging to Bryan Tufts	14-Oct-03	G	500
LOVEJOY	PAUL	23-Aug-02	KENNEBUNK	molesting lobster gear to wit: one (1) trap belonging to Carl Guay	14-Oct-03	G	500
LOVEJOY	PAUL	24-Aug-02	KENNEBUNK	possession of twenty-one (21) shorts	14-Oct-03	G	925
LOVEJOY	PAUL	24-Aug-02	KENNEBUNK	possession of one (1) female egg bearing lobster	14-Oct-03	G	150
LOVEJOY	PAUL	24-Aug-02	KENNEBUNK	possession of one (1) female v-notch lobster	14-Oct-03	G	150
LOVEJOY	PAUL	25-Aug-02	KENNEBUNK	molesting lobster gear to wit: one (1) trap belonging to Alan Inzerillo	14-Oct-03	G	500
LUNT	DANIEL	27-Sep-03	FRENCHBORO	Lobster fishing traps w/o biodegradable vents - 7 traps in violation	13-Nov-03	G	100
MACDOUGALL	ROBERT	8-Sep-03	ROCKLAND	Engaged in lobster transportation (wholesale trade) out of state w/o license	16-Oct-03	G	561.6
MCCOLE	MARC	19-Jul-03	BRUNSWICK	possession of four (4) short lobsters	15-Oct-03	G	100
MCMAHAN	DAVID	9-Jul-03	CRIEHAVEN TWP	Poss. of five (5) v-notched mutilated female lobsters	8-Aug-03	G	300
MCNUTT	WILLIAM	10-Jul-03	MOUNT DESERT	Short lobsters-poss. of three (3) short lobsters	14-Aug-03	G	125
MCNUTT	WILLIAM	12-Jul-03	MOUNT DESERT	Non-commercial lobster fisherman submerged more than five traps	11-Sep-03	G	700
MERCHANT	BRUCE	25-Aug-03	GOULDSBORO	Engaged in activity of L&C fishing beyond Class II, to wit Class III level	18-Nov-03	G	236
MERRILL	LAURA	1-Aug-03	FRENCHBORO	Lobstering w/o license	11-Sep-03	G	276
MILLER	JOHN	9-Jul-03	WALDOBORO	Engaging in activities while under suspension	5-Sep-03	G	500
MOORE	ALVIN	5-Jun-03	GEORGETOWN	fishing traps without a current tag	29-Jul-03	G	100
MOORE	BRAD	5-Jun-03	GEORGETOWN	fishing lobster traps without valid 2003 trap tags (2 traps)	12-Aug-03	G	100
MOORE	ROBERT	18-Oct-03	GEORGETOWN	possession of five (5) female v-notch/mutilated lobsters	8-Dec-03	G	300
PATTERSON	WILLIAM	1-Sep-03	TENANTS HARBOR	Lobster license violation	7-Oct-03	G	276.4
PINKHAM	BRIAN	15-Oct-02	BOOTHBAY	possession of seven (7) short lobsters	24-Jun-03	G	400
PINKHAM	JOHN	17-Oct-03	GEORGETOWN	possession of three (3) female v-notch lobsters	1-Dec-03	G	200
PINKHAM	JAMIE	10-Oct-03	GEORGETOWN	possession of six (6) short lobsters	2-Dec-03	G	225
PINKHAM	JAMIE	10-Oct-03	GEORGETOWN	possession of six (6) v-notch female lobsters	2-Dec-03	G	350
PURINGTON	RICHARD	13-Jun-03	HARPSWELL	eight (8) untagged lobster traps	12-Aug-03	G	400
PURINGTON	IRVING	21-Sep-03	BOOTHBAY	engaged in lobster activity without a lobster/crab license	8-Dec-03	G	236
PURINGTON II	IRVING	21-Sep-03	BOOTHBAY HARBOR	possession of two (2) undersize lobsters	14-Oct-03	G	100
PYE	MAURICE	5-Jun-03	GEORGETOWN	fishing untagged lobster traps (two traps)	8-Jul-03	G	100
QUIMBY	DANIEL	17-Sep-03	MACHIASPORT	Poss. of two (2) v-notched lobsters	26-Sep-03	G	150
RAY	STUART	20-Oct-03	MILBRIDGE	Possession of 3 v-notched female lobsters	3-Dec-03	G	412.5
REED	MATTHEW	8-Jul-03	CRANBERRY ISLES	Short lobsters-poss. of four (4) short lobsters	14-Aug-03	G	182.5
RICKER	WAYNE	6-Sep-03	HARPSWELL	possession of three (3) short lobsters	11-Sep-03	G	225
ROGERS	MICHAEL	20-Jun-03	ROCKLAND	Short lobsters-poss. of five (5) short lobsters	11-Aug-03	G	175
SECOTTE	KEVIN	23-Dec-02	ROCKLAND	Selling 8 v-notched, mutilated female lobsters	15-Oct-03	G	527.5
SECOTTE	KEVIN	23-Dec-02	ROCKLAND	Short lobsters-selling 19 short lobsters	15-Oct-03	G	1016.3
SIMMONS	ANDREW	1-Jul-03	PORT CLYDE	No 2003 L&C license	2-Sep-03	G	236
SIMMONS	WAYNE	5-Aug-03	FRIENDSHIP	fishing untagged lobster traps to wit: 5 traps	23-Sep-03	G	250
SIROIS	MAURICE	27-Jun-03	EAST BOOTHBAY	possession of one (1) short lobster	25-Aug-03	G	75
SMITH	CLIFTON	14-Jun-03	KENNEBUNKPORT	possession of one (1) short lobster	16-Sep-03	G	75
SODERBERG	STEVEN	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	Molesting lobster gear	28-Jul-03	G	500
SODERBERG	STEVEN	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	possession of five (5) short lobsters	28-Jul-03	G	175
SODERBERG	STEVEN	7-Jun-03	WISCASSET	possession of one (1) v-notch female lobster	28-Jul-03	G	100
THOMAS	ROBERT	26-May-03	PORT CLYDE	Short lobsters-poss. of fourteen (14) short lobsters	8-Jul-03	G	575
TOLMAN	JEFFREY	3-Sep-03	VINALHAVEN	Poss. of four (4) v-notched mutilated female lobsters	16-Oct-03	G	297.5
TRUNDY	GREGORY	25-Jul-03	SORRENTO	Short lobsters-poss. of thirteen (13) short lobsters	10-Nov-03	G	575
WARREN	HARLAN	23-Jun-03	VINALHAVEN	Short lobsters-poss. of four (4) short lobsters	12-Aug-03	DEF	150
WIDDECOMBE	TRAVIS	23-Jun-03	SPRUCE HEAD	Short lobsters-poss. of five (5) undersized lobsters	7-Aug-03	G	211.25
WILDES	MICHAEL	29-Jul-03	KENNEBUNK	fishing untagged lobster traps to wit: 13 traps total	16-Sep-03	G	175
WILSON	DONALD	25-Aug-03	TENANTS HARBOR	No lobster license violation	7-Oct-03	G	276.4

Whale Updates

Fall Dynamic Area Management Action: Due to the repeated sightings of right whales in the Jeffreys Ledge area, the National Marine Fisheries Service initiated a Dynamic Area Management (DAM) action in early December. This area was 35 square miles, with its NW corner close to Boone Island within Lobster Zone G. The DAM action was extended into early January due to the continued sightings of the whales. Unlike the proposed DAM action a year ago, where all fishing gear was to be removed, recent adjustments to the Dynamic Management Area fishing gear modification criteria allowed for the use of two buoy lines on trawls and 1/3 poly on all endlines. However, poly groundlines continue to be prohibited. Maine Marine Patrol vessels operated within this area and seized gear found to be non-whale compliant.

New Whale Rules Due This May/June: NMFS is currently working on adjustments to the current Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed new rules are scheduled to be published by late May/early June of this year. The Agency has received many comments critical of the current Take Reduction Plan, particularly the existing Seasonal and Dynamic Area Management Action components. In anticipation of these new rules, DMR is concentrating on the development and testing of additional gear modifications to further the State's efforts to both fully protect the whales and the fishing industries. Using sightings data obtained from the NMFS, the Department proposed a gear modification exemption line and is currently focusing on the research into low profile groundlines in areas outside of the proposed exemption area. Expect to see reference to each of these components, as well as timetables and other proposals in the upcoming DEIS and proposed rules. NMFS will schedule public hearings to be held early this summer.

February Take Reduction Team Meeting: A meeting of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team was held the first week of February in Providence, RI. The purpose of the meeting was to update TRT members on whale conservation activities and research; follow-up issues from the 2003 ALWTRT meeting; update ALWTRT members on the status of the proposed rule, DEIS and the review process; and to discuss options for potential changes in the organizational structure of the ALWTRT. There will be a report on the outcome of these discussions at the upcoming Maine Fishermen's Forum.

ROV Project, Gear Modification

The high, arching profile of poly float-rope groundlines (or tailer warps) has been identified by NOAA Fisheries as posing a high entanglement risk to large whales in the Gulf of Maine. It is likely, that by 2008, use of poly groundlines as we know today, may likely be phased out and replaced by some form of lower-profile ground rope. Fully understanding the industry's operational need for floating rope, the Department has shifted the focus of the Maine Whale Plan from sightings and disentanglement to gear modification research and development in order to find a rope that protects whales yet still works well for fishermen.

Between September 2 and November 7, 2003, the DMR contracted Ocean Eye Underwater Inspection Service of Warwick, RI, and the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) to document the underwater profile of groundlines between lobster traps along the entire coast of Maine. Ocean Eye was contracted to film utilizing a remote operated vehicle (ROV); MLA was contracted to subcontract the industry survey vessels in each harbor.

The filming focused on gear that was being actively fished, and a variety of data was collected for each gear set: depth of set, size and type of rope, length of groundline between traps, when traps were set out, etc. Permission was obtained to film the gear whenever possible, and the captain of the survey vessel often communicated with other lobstermen over the VHF to obtain the required information about their gear.

Film gear – the ROV camera, generator, tether, and boxes of equipment -- was transferred daily from boat to boat. Working with a boat from a different harbor every day made it somewhat logistically challenging, but it allowed for the best possible coverage and understanding of each unique fishing community. The captains, their helpers and lobstermen from other boats (which came alongside during the filming) were able to view their gear being filmed by the ROV. Many saw the ocean floor for the first time. Lobstermen regularly commented on the way their groundlines looked in the water column or on the bottom, and often made suggestions as to how they might modify their ropes to lower the profile of their groundlines.

Several modified gear sets were filmed throughout the project, including combinations of poly and sinking warp on the same section of groundline; adding a length of lead-line to the warp; wiring the warp with solder wire; and unlaying one strand of poly to replace it with a strand of sink rope. In the coming months, the best of these options and others will be tested by nine fishermen (in three different areas of the coast) to determine which modifications lower the overall profile of the groundline, yet still allows the gear to be fished in even the most rugged areas.

The film footage is in the process of being edited and will be shared with industry at the Fishermen's Forum in March. It will provide data and documentation for future gear modification options and management efforts in Maine's rocky and tidal habitats.

ASMFC Updates

Addendum IV: The ASMFC Lobster Board approved Addendum 4 to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan. This Addendum establishes management measures for Areas 2 and 3 and modifies vent sizes and the interpretation of the most restrictive rule for multi-area fishermen.

Addendum 4 was initiated to deal with the collapse of the lobster stock in Area 2 (southern Mass and RI) and increases the minimum gauge size in that area to 3 ½" by 2008. It also approved an Area 2 proposal to decrease the number of traps through time using a trap transferability program. Within Area 3 the Board approved a new trap transferability program and 10% trap reduction by 2008.

Based on a vent selectivity study by Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the circular vent size has been increased for those areas with new larger minimum gauges.

ASMFC will also be conducting a peer reviewed new stock assessment for American Lobster in late 2004. This stock assessment will consider new modeling approaches and input parameters such as natural mortality.

Volovar Suit

Late fall the Department received notice of a precedent making decision of the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The State of Connecticut and an individual plaintiff sued the State of New York concerning non-resident commercial lobster license eligibility within the Fishers Island conservation area. The Court ruled New York's commercial non-resident law unconstitutional. The implications of this recent decision upon non-resident entry into Maine's lobster industry are unknown at this time. The State Attorney Generals Office is currently investigating.

Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund Board

In the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature, LD 2009 was passed, which created both the lobster specialty license plate and the Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund. The Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources is charged with the responsibility of appointing members to the Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund Board, and consulting with them regarding the expenditures from this fund. The following members have agreed to serve on this Board.

- ## Maine Lobstermen's Association member - Dwight Carver
- ## Downeast Lobstermen's Association member - Clare Grindal
- ## Southern Maine Lobsterman's Association member - Peter Eaton
- ## Lobster Import-Export Dealers Association member - Peter McAleney
- ## Lobster Processor's Association member - Jeff Holden
- ## Maine Lobster Promotion Council member - Tim Harkins
- ## Lobster Advisory Council member - Frank Strout
- ## Lobster Institute member - Robert Bayer
- ## Lobster Pound Owners Association member - Vacant



Lobster Advisory Council Update

The Lobster Advisory Council met on January 21st. They had an election of Officers.

Chair: Larry Knapp

Vice Chair: Dan Miller

Secretary: Steve Train

There was some discussion about each of the seven zones providing lobster zone information for the DMR Lobster Newsletter. A lobster federal Area 3 permit holder attended the meeting to share his story about fishing in Area 3. His concern was that Maine Lobster Dealers don't have access to Area 3 lobstermen. In order to land his lobsters in Maine, he would have to hold a Maine lobster license, hold no more than 800 traps and throw back the oversized lobsters. Area 3 fishermen are allowed to possess a ¼" v-notch and Maine fishermen are not. There was a suggestion to allow Area 3 fishermen to land in Maine, but abide by Maine's laws. Carl Wilson gave a Jonah Crab presentation, as well as a discussion on a separate crab fishery, splitting the lobster and crab license. The Department will draft up a crab fishery proposal to bring back to the Lobster Advisory Council. Marine Patrol commissioned their latest Patrol Vessel "*Challenge II*" on January 23, 2004 at the USCG Station in South Portland. The vessel will be stationed in the Portland area, giving Marine Patrol the capability to handle offshore details. The Commercial Fishing Safety Council is now complete. This Safety Council consists of 17 members, 1 of whom must be a license holder and a member of the Lobster Advisory Council. The LAC unanimously recommended Bob Baines to serve in this seat. The LAC unanimously approved their newly created bylaws. The Council had an extensive discussion on artificial bait. Colonel Fessenden read Title 17, Section 2264 – Littering Prohibited, which does not prohibit persons who fish, lobster or otherwise harvest from the water from returning to the water harvested products, bait and similar materials that naturally originate in the water. The Department will be looking at short-term and long-term answers to this artificial bait concern. The Council also discussed the Entry Appeals process. The LAC will be writing a letter to the Marine Resources Committee stating that the existing appeals process is adequate and that they do not want to change or add any additional appeals criteria. Deputy Commissioner Etnier reviewed the status of the bills that are before the Marine Resources Committee. New rulemaking includes the new lobster dealer regulations and the new set of rules for Swans Island, which basically synchronizes their rules to state rules. NMFS has awarded additional money to fully fund a second round of filming for the ROV project. Laura Ludwig will be editing many hours of film down to a 30-minute presentation to be presented at the Forum. The State of Maine has proposed that no gear changes are required in the middle of a fishing year. Pat White is now the Chair for the ASMFC Lobster Management Board. Addendum 4 was adopted at the December ASMFC meeting. In that, the Most Restrictive Rule has the biggest impact on Maine fishermen. The next Lobster Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17th at 5:00 p.m. at the Department of Human Services building at 442 Civic Center Drive in Augusta.

Legislative Update

In early 2003, during the first session of the 121st Legislature, the Marine Resources Committee deliberated on LD 276: An Act to Allow the Sale of Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses. The Committee decided at that time to carry the bill over to the second session, which started in January 2004, and to request that the Lobster Advisory Council consider the issues raised by the bill during the interim. At its regular meeting held in Boothbay on October 29, 2003, the Lobster Advisory Council discussed the concept of allowing the sale of lobster licenses and voted: 8 members opposed to the sale, 0 members in favor, 1 member abstained. The Marine Resources Committee took the bill up again in November, and after considerable discussion voted: 8 members against the bill (Senators Damon, Pendleton, Bennett and Representatives Bull, Bowen, Kaelin, McNeil, Percy) and 2 members in favor of an amended version of the bill (Representatives Ash and Bierman). In January of this year, the full Legislature defeated the bill when it came to the floor of the House and Senate for votes.

The only lobster related legislation to come before the Marine Resources Committee during its second session which began in January 2004 is LD 1667: An Act to Repeal the Exception Provision for Certain Imported Lobster Under the Laws Governing Lobster Measurement. This Legislation is sponsored by Representative Anne Perry of Calais who is also the legislative member of Lobster Zone A Council. This bill is scheduled for a public hearing on March 8th with a work session scheduled for the 10th of March. These dates and the locations are tentative as of this writing. This legislation would repeal Title 12 §6431 (Minimum and maximum length) subsection 6 of Maine law which reads:

6. Exception; wholesale dealer; regulations. This section shall not apply to lobsters imported intact in the original crates by a holder of a wholesale seafood license to another wholesale seafood license holder if the crates are sealed in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner; or to imported lobsters being shipped or transported out-of-state if they are in containers sealed in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner. The commissioner may adopt or amend regulations to prescribe the time, manner and method of sealing crates or containers for the effective operation of this subsection. The regulations may contain a requirement for a special permit and provisions for inspection of the crates, containers, contents and seals.

Zone Council News

Information provided by your Zone Council representatives. If you would like more news or information in the next newsletter, please contact your local representative.

Common issues for all Zones include lobster health, "Most Restrictive Rule", the federal right whale requirements, new legislation and electing officers/representatives at each of the zone's fall/winter meetings.

Zone A: The "Gray Zone" in the eastern part of the zone is still an ongoing problem. There are no scheduled talks with the Canadians, and no co-management policy in place for the area at this time. The Zone council will be meeting to gather information to educate the council members on the issue of Limited Entry/Apprentice Program. There appears to be confusion on how the system works. Afterwards, they plan to inform the zone commercial license holders on their findings. Check out the DMR's web site, under lobster data to see the map from Carl Wilson on the percentage of growth of trap tags for all zones. The issue of "artificial bait" and the harmful, if any, effects on lobsters are on the thoughts of many. It appears that fishermen would agree to stop using the bait if found to be harmful to lobsters and/or other marine organisms.

Zone B: Over 100 fishermen attended the last Lobster Zone B Council meeting held on January 8th. They had an election of Officers:

Chair	Jon Carter	Secretary	Eric Jones
Vice Chair	Chris Goodwin	Lobster Advisory Council Rep	Jon Carter

Swans Island fishermen approached the Council for a proposed trap reduction in Zone B to 600 traps. Members present at the meeting were opposed to the trap reduction idea. Additional sentiments arose and sparked much controversy whether Swans Island should be able to vote on an issue such as a trap limit when Zone B cannot provide input to the Swans Island Conservation Area. There was a unanimous vote on leaving the trap Zone B trap limit at 800 traps.

The Council unanimously voted against the following bills:

- ## LD 276 - An Act to Allow the Sale of Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses
- ## LD 277 - An Act to Amend the Eligibility Requirements for a Lobster and Crab Fishing License (Lobster License Appeals Process)
- ## LD 1667 - An Act To Repeal the Exception Provision for Certain Imported Lobster under the Laws Governing Lobster Measurement (Oversized lobsters traveling through Maine).

They also voted on the idea of Colored Student Tags. There was a unanimous vote to leave the tags for student license holders the same color as all license holders. Chair Jon Carter wanted to make a statement that it was impressive to see the entire Lobster Zone B Council and 100 plus Zone B fishermen pull together and attend meetings to discuss such important issues as these. Zone B will be meeting on April 8th at 6:00 pm at the Mount Desert Island High School Library to further discuss the subzone issue.

Zone C: There was a good turnout at the last Zone C meeting held on January 27th. There are two new members on the Zone C Council – Mike Grindle, representing District 2 and Robert Ray, representing District 4. Representative Hannah Pingree is the Zone C Council Legislative Representative. The Council had an election of Officers:

Chair	David Tarr	Secretary	Robert Ray
Vice Chair	Mike Sherman	Lobster Advisory Council Rep	Burt Leach

The Council voted unanimously that they recommend keeping the Aquaculture rules as they are. The Council didn't think it was a good idea to eliminate the public hearing process on a renewal of a site. The Lobster Hatchery issue is still alive in Zone C. The Stonington Fisheries Alliance will be sending a questionnaire or memo to gain zone support. David Tarr and Burt Leach will be the zone council liaisons with this project. Fishermen stay tuned!!! The Council also discussed the artificial bait issue. There is concern with completely outlawing it without having any research. Traditional bait is becoming scarcer all the time. Would like to see more research on hide bait. The Zone is definitely against the idea of a separate crab license. There is some support for discontinuing fishermen offshore (3-mile limit) in the traditional territory that people fish. It affects the 51/49%. These people would like the zone line ended at 3 miles. Further discussion to be brought to the Lobster Advisory Council and the next Zone C meeting scheduled for April on Vinalhaven.

Zone D: Zone D met on January 6th. The Council had an election of Officers:

Chair	Dan Miller	Secretary	Mike Myrick
Vice Chair	Peter Mulhearn	Lobster Advisory Council Rep	Dan Miller

Other agenda items included: ASMFC Issues and Shell Disease by Carl Wilson; Sea Sampling Results by Alison Sirois and a Trawl Survey Update from Sally Sherman. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the Rockland Ferry Terminal.

Zone E: There was not a quorum at Zone E's last meeting on January 13th. The Council reviewed the results of the Controlled Entry questionnaire and discussed new legislation. The Council will vote on the results of the questionnaire at their next meeting scheduled for March 31st at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln County Communications Center in Wiscasset. There will also be a science presentation, as well as the trawl survey results.

Zone F:

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

An LNG facility has been proposed for Harpswell Neck by Fairwinds, a partnership of ConocoPhillips and TransCanada. Harpswell stands to gain substantial income from the leasing of the property, and additional natural gas will be available to users in eastern New England. Harpswell residents will be voting on whether to accept the lease on March 9, 2004. If the lease is accepted, the facility will begin the permitting process.

This facility will accept tankers up to 900 feet in length. The current wharf will be extended to approximately 800 feet into Middle Bay. About two tankers a week are expected. A safety zone will be required around the tanker as it enters and leaves Casco Bay, and when it is in port.

As a part of the facility, a 24 to 30-inch diameter gas line is proposed to be constructed to connect the facility to the existing pipelines. The conceptual pipeline route, as shown in the facility's Project Impact and Description Document, runs from the plant, by Goose Ledge, between Great Chebeague Island and Cousins Island, and around the southwest end of Cousins Island toward Broad Cove.

There may be a loss of fishing grounds due to the increase in size of the wharf, the safety zone around the wharf and the fairway for the tankers entering and leaving the facility. Although there is a provision for gear loss payment in the lease, it is for a limited area inside the Broad Sound buoy. In addition, there will be a loss of scallop bottom along the conceptual pipeline route.

Dredging

The DMR has determined not to hold a public meeting on a proposal by Gulf Oil Limited Partnership to dredge sediment and remove submerged ledge from their berthing facility in South Portland. Approximately 11,000 cubic yards of material would be removed from approximately 1-acre sub-tidal area and disposed of at the Portland Ocean Disposal Site located approximately 7.1 nautical miles east of Cape Elizabeth. Pursuant to 38 MRSA §480-D, sub-§9, DMR will accept verbal and written comments in lieu of a public meeting. If five or more persons request a public meeting within 30 days of this notice, by February 23, 2004, DMR will hold such a meeting. Contact: Brian Swan, DMR, 21 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333; tel: 624-6573

The next Zone F meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 pm at the Yarmouth Town Hall.

Zone G: Zone G's last meeting was held on December 4, 2003. Agenda items included new legislation and the Dynamic Area Management action in Zone G. They had an election of Officers:

Chair	Jim Henderson
Secretary	Brad Parady
Lobster Advisory Council Rep	Jim Alwin

Their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Kittery Recreational Center on Cole Street.

For more information concerning the meeting dates and/or other issues, please contact your local zone council representative, Sarah Cotnoir at the DMR at 624-6596, or the DMR web page at www.maine.gov/dmr.

2004 New Zone Entrants for Limited-Entry Lobster Zones Calculated

Heads up – here's what's going on with Limited Entry. This information will be in the upcoming newsletter, which everybody will hopefully have before the Forum.

As required by Maine's new limited entry law (12 M.R.S.A. §6448), the Commissioner of Marine Resources has determined the number of new zone entrants authorized for each of the limited-entry lobster zones. Of the seven lobster zones, five zones have adopted regulations to limit the number of new zone entrants in 2004. The number of new zone entrants authorized is based on a comparison of the number of licenses in that zone in 2002 and the number of people who did not renew their license in that zone in 2003. Exceptions to the limited-entry process, such as medical and military waivers, are discounted from the totals for the purposes of calculating the number of new zone entrants as required by the limited-entry law.

Each lobster limited-entry zone has established an exit ratio to determine how many licenses must be retired (not renewed) in order for a new zone entrant to be allowed into the zone. Following are the number of licenses awarded in 2004 for each limited-entry zone based on the exit ratio for that zone:

- Zone B:** 6 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every three licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:3)
- Zone D:** 8 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every five licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:5)
- Zone E:** 9 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every two licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:2)
- Zone F:** 12 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every three licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:3)
- Zone G:** 9 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every two licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:2)

Since 1999, individuals who became eligible for a lobster and crab fishing license and indicated to the Department on a Zone Declaration Form that they would like to fish in a limited-entry zone were placed on a waiting list in order of their eligibility date. Certified letters have been sent to those individuals on the waiting list that are now authorized to purchase a 2004 license. These individuals have 30 days to buy their 2004 lobster and crab fishing license for that limited-entry zone or the next person on the waiting list is offered the slot.

Questions about the lobster licensing process should be addressed to Lisa Cote, License Eligibility Specialist, Department of Marine Resources, (207) 624-6549 or Lisa.Cote@maine.gov.

Blaine House Conference on Natural Resources Update

The Blaine House Conference on Natural Resources held on November 17th was well attended (over 750 people) and included some in-depth discussion in the three fisheries breakout sessions. Our thanks go to everyone who took the time to attend. As a result of the strong conference showing, the Governor's support for Maine's natural resource based industries—fishing, farming, agriculture, aquaculture and tourism—continues to grow.

In his State of the State address, he listed seven initiatives that would support these industries. Of particular interest to the fishing industry is his support for both the public and private working waterfront. On that issue, the Governor plans to establish a working group to analyze and propose tax options that would help support Maine's working waterfronts, forests and farmland. He also supports acquiring more public water access sites through the Land for Maine's Future program.

Another conference recommendation is to undertake a long-range planning process for the DMR, which includes reviewing its funding and exploring a recreational salt-water fishing license. A session at the Maine Fishermen's Forum is scheduled to get your response to this DMR long-range plan.

A final report summarizing the feedback gathered at the conference and set of recommendations to the Governor will be available by February 9th. The report will be emailed to everyone who attended the conference (and gave their email address) and also available on the Governor's home page at www.maine.gov.

2003 - FEMALE LOBSTER PURCHASE**Dealer****Price****Pounds****Total****Paid****Liberated****ZONE A**

D. B. Rice	\$3.90	2,564	\$9,999.60	Paid	x
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Fishermen	Area	Pounds	Liberated District	Date
Roger Chipman	Bunkers Harbor	400	8	10/8/2003
Chris Urquhart	Corea	400	8	10/8/2003
Robert Hurlbert	Steuben	200	7	10/8/2003
Keegan Beal, Levi Wallace, Chris Dorr, Tom Chase & Son	Milbridge	300	6	10/8/2003
Jay Kelley	Jonesport	450	4	10/8/2003
Matt Day	Bucks Harbor	364	2	10/8/2003
John Drouin & MPO Russell Wright	Cutler	<u>450</u>	1	10/8/2003
Total Pounds		2,564		

Total Paid to Zone A Dealer – D.B. Rice	\$9,999.60
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ZONE G

Higgins Beach Lobster Pound	\$4.00	1,250	\$5,000.00	Paid	x
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Fishermen	Area	Pounds	Liberated District
James Henderson	Saco Bay	400	10/6/2003
Mark White	Kennebunkport	400	10/6/2003
Dale Hilborne	York	400	10/6/2003
MPO Daryen Granata	Scarborough	<u>50</u>	10/6/2003
Total Pounds		1,250	

Total Paid Zone G Dealer - Higgins Beach Lobster Pound	\$5,000.00
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Seed Lobster Fund
Fiscal 2004 through January 23, 2004

REVENUES

Collected

Lobster Crab Fish License	50,450.00
Total Revenues	50,450.00

EXPENDITURES

	Actual	Encumbered	Total
Prof. Services, Not by State	-	34,999.00	34,999.00
Seeders	17,254.60	7,689.50	24,944.10
Grants to Public and Private Organizations	41,771.09	28,377.66	70,148.75
Transfers	377.27	-	377.27
Total Expenditures	59,402.96	71,066.16	130,469.12
Beginning Cash, July 1, 2003			160,522.59
Add Revenues			50,450.00
Less Expenditures/Encumbrances			(130,469.12)
Available Cash, January 23, 2004			80,503.47

ENCUMBERED

	Contract Amt	Balance
Bigelow Lab for Ocean	25,000.00	11,856.33
Bigelow Lab for Ocean	11,000.00	9,021.33
Dana B Rice	10,000.00	-
Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation	9,000.00	4,500.00
Gulf of Maine Research Institute	10,000.00	1,000.00
Higgins Beach Lobster	5,000.00	-
Inland Seafood	7,689.50	7,689.50
Lobster Conservancy	10,000.00	2,000.00
Univ of Maine-Assessing Gulf of Maine	25,000.00	25,000.00
Univ of Maine-Monitoring Zones A-D	9,999.00	9,999.00
Total		71,066.16

Expenditure Detail

	Amt Paid
Stacap	377.27
Arnold S Francis	1,740.00
Bigelow Lab for Ocean	15,122.34
Butler Bros Supply Div Inc	450.00
Dana B Rice	9,999.60
Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation	4,500.00
Gulf of Maine Research Institute	9,000.00
Higgins Beach Lobster	5,000.00
Lobster Conservancy	9,000.00
Swans Island Co-Op	65.00
Univ of Maine System	4,148.75
Total	59,402.96

Rulemaking Action

- ## All persons who fish lobster gear within Maine's coastal and territorial waters and Area 1 have been required to comply with the federal Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) regulations since their effective date of February 16, 1999. The Department has adopted provisional major substantive regulations to provide consistency with the federal ALWTRP's gear modifications and facilitate Maine's enforcement with the federal Take Reduction Plan.
- ## A technical correction was made to the Lobster Trap Escape Vent Dimension regulation.
- ## The Department has proposed to synchronize the Swans Island Area Lobster Trap Regulations originally established in 1984 with current State lobster management regulations. The Swans Island Trap Limit Committee is also proposing to increase the trap limit from 475 to 550 with replacement tags held in escrow.
- ## The mandatory lobster dealer reporting has been adopted into the Chapter 8 Landings Program. See Below.

New Lobster Dealer Reporting Regulations

Reporting of landings data is an important part of assessing the health of the seafood industry in Maine. Up until now, the majority of the lobster landings were collected on a voluntary basis from wholesale seafood dealers. Many dealers chose not to report these landings voluntarily, and retailers, who also can buy lobsters directly from harvesters, were not targeted for this information. Many from the industry called upon the Dept. to institute mandatory reporting regulations for dealers involved in the lobster fishery in order to acquire a better understanding of the lobster landings for Maine.

The Department responded to the industry concerns and has recently passed two new regulations that will affect all lobster dealers, including retailers. A new "Primary Buyer" permit was created to identify all dealers (whether wholesale, retail, marine worm, elver, shellfish, etc.) that buy marine species from harvesters. Anyone who holds any type of dealer license with the Department and buys or intends to buy any marine species from harvesters must obtain this permit on their dealer license. The permit is free of charge. This allows the DMR Landings Program to target the appropriate dealers for reporting purposes. A second regulation was passed which requires all wholesale lobster dealers and retailers who hold a primary buyer permit to report lobster landings to DMR. The Department is only interested in those landings that were bought directly from harvesters, not from other dealers. If a dealer is also lobster harvester and this person sells his/her own catch under their dealer name, the business must have the primary buyer permit and must report those landings to DMR as well.

These two regulations will help to ensure the majority of the lobster landings will be recorded and Maine will have a better handle on the health of the lobster fishery. The Department would like to thank all the industry members who helped with the drafting and support of these regulations. Any questions may be directed to Heidi Bray at (207) 633-9504 or David Libby (207) 633-9532.

ASMFC Lobster Management Areas Most Restrictive Rule

The Department will propose rulemaking limitations for lobster management areas (LMA's) for compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for American lobster. The ASMFC has approved a variety of area-by-area management measures, which include but are not limited to minimum/maximum gauge sizes, escape vent sizes, v-notch definitions, and trap limits. The FMP requires that all states implement and enforce the management measures in the areas under their jurisdiction. If you hold a Maine lobster/crab fishing license and a federal lobster permit and select multiple LMA's, the proposed rules require the most restrictive management measures be followed for all LMA's declared. The proposed rule will not apply to minimum size at this time. If you do not hold a federal lobster permit but do hold a Maine lobster/crab fishing license, the ASMFC FMP for American lobster requires lobster management Area 1 to be added to trap tags. A public hearing will be held in mid-to-late March. Website: www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking.

Pending Rulemaking

Draft rulemaking in progress - Written materials not available unless noted

Chapters

Subject

2.90	Aquaculture - Statutory compliance
2,10 & 14	Updates for consistency with federal shellfish Model Ordinance
5	Confidential: Proposal to update w/new changes in §6173(2) & new Ch. 8 – Landings Program
11.07(1)(a)(iii)	Atlantic Sea Scallops, Configuration of Drag – Redo last rulemaking
25.08(B)(1)&(2)	Non-commercial lobster license update with statutory changes
25.50	Proposal to repeal crab closure
26.20	Repeal Urchin research areas
New Chapter:	Harvest Demonstration License pursuant to §6810-A, effective Jan. 1, 2004

Confused About the Rulemaking Process?

There have been a large number of rule changes in the lobster fishery over the last few years. The process can be confusing and the Department receives many questions concerning the difference between Agency rulemaking (regulations, rules) versus statutes (laws, legislation, rules, statutes).

As simply as possible, here's the difference between the rulemaking and law making processes:

Laws: Members of the Maine Legislature propose and write "statutes", which for DMR are usually about fisheries. Individuals or the Department may request members of the Legislature to develop proposed legislation, which if passed through all the required procedures become statutes. Examples of this are the establishment of the Lobster Management Zones, establishment of scallop and urchin fishing gear requirements, creation of aquaculture lease criteria and the determination of fishing license fees.

Some statutes instruct the Department to further develop details on how a statute will be carried out. Example: The Legislature passes a statute that the Department must administer licenses to persons who harvest Atlantic halibut and instructs the Department to develop rules as to how and when to obtain this license.

Rules: The State Administrative Procedures Act specifies the process for all State rulemaking actions. Individuals or the Department may draft proposed rulemaking and the Department must follow procedures in accordance with the Act. Regulations implement the law administered by the agency or describes procedures. Examples of this are the lobster trap tag system, lobster zone boundary disputes and public health issues. The Lobster Advisory Council, the Lobster Zone Councils and members of the public have all exercised this public process.

A convenient way to check up on any State agency (DMR, IF&W, Conservation, etc.) regulations that are being proposed or have been adopted, notices are published every Wednesday in the 5 major newspapers legal advertisements (Portland Press Herald, Bangor Daily, Kennebec Journal, Waterville Sentinel and the Lewiston Sun-Journal). This same information may also be found on the Secretary of State's web site: <http://www.state.me.us/sos/cec/rcn/apa/weekly.htm>.

For additional questions or more information about the process, please contact the Department's Regulations & Hearings Officer Laurice Churchill at 633-9584.

New Maine Marine License Renewal

Why spend the day traveling to the Department of Marine Resources office when you could be fishing? With this new electronic delivery service, 7,000 lobster and crab harvesters will have an alternate license renewal method available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Department of Marine Resources, in partnership with InforME, Maine's eGovernment portal, is pleased to offer Maine's lobster and crab fishermen a convenient on-line service option called Maine Marine Licensing. The first on-line marine license renewal service will be open to lobster and crab harvesters. The new service will be available soon at www.MaineMarineLicensing.com for the 2004 renewal period.

The license renewal service is available to both commercial and non-commercial license holders. By inputting identifying information, such as name and social security number or date of birth, a license record is quickly retrieved and a payment screen provided. Credit card payment is accepted through secure socket layer, ensuring security and privacy of personal information. With instant access and payment, the renewal process is quick and easy!

This renewal service is only available to Maine residents.
(This information was provided by Renee Loring of InforME)

Shell Disease Update

Summary:

The DMR continues to receive calls on the occurrence of diseased lobsters along the coast. Based on observation from industry and dealers, southern Maine, specifically the Piscataqua River seems to have the highest occurrence of shell disease. The release of the "lobster health poster" has greatly increased participation of reporting. Initial work by Dr. O'Kelly seems to indicate that many of the identified organisms are the same as those seen on diseased lobsters in southern waters. At this time O'Kelly has sufficient samples, we will collect additional samples in the spring. DMR sampling indicates that coast wide shell disease is less than 0.1% of hardshell lobsters.

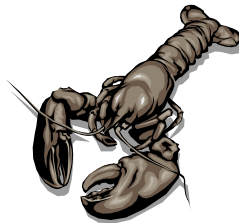
The DMR has established a community of researchers who have been consulted on the distribution, type and occurrence of diseased lobsters in Maine. This group would be more than willing to participate in a discussion this winter.

Distribution and occurrence of reports:

- ## Kittery to Eastport
- ## All depth ranges
- ## Generally female lobsters
- ## All old hardshell lobsters

DMR Sampling

Formally initiated for the 2003 sampling season, all lobsters measured during sampling were scored for shell disease. Of the 122,500 lobsters measured, only 44 were scored with shell disease covering more than 1% of the shell ranging in size from 75 to 136 mm CL. Of the shell diseased lobsters, only 9% were males. Nearly 45% of larger lobsters (>3.25") were scored with shell disease greater than 10%. Although the incidence of shell disease observed in traps was extremely low in 2003 in Maine, the DMR will continue to monitor this phenomenon in coming years.



Thistle Marine Electronic Logbooks—Carl Wilson

The first electronic logbook was installed in May 2000. Since that time, fishermen have counted nearly a million lobsters from Cutler to Massachusetts. This information is already providing valuable data on the spatial distribution and seasonal catch rates in the lobster fishery. As the program is established, we hope that electronic logbooks will be an essential component to DMR's lobster monitoring programs. We envision that electronic logbooks could be a valuable assessment tool, as information is collected daily and over a wide geographic range. We continue to seek new volunteers to participate in this exciting project. To date approximately 75 units have been distributed to fishermen from Maine to Massachusetts. The DMR will cover ALL COSTS associated with this program, including the cost of the box, installation and monthly fees. Your daily catch information can be accessed by a secure website at www.thistlemarine.com. For fishermen who worry about problems associated with counting every lobster from every trap, systematic sub-sampling can greatly reduce the time involved. As little as 25 traps every day, over the course of the season, can provide a rich source of data. If you are interested in receiving an electronic logbook and collecting valuable data, please feel free to call me (633-9538). Speak up and start counting!!

Herring Project

Project Description

The Atlantic herring fishery has changed a great deal since the last herring-tagging project in US waters in 1970-1982. There is increased pressure from mobile gear (purse seine and mid-water trawl), the stocks seem to have shifted further offshore, and the Georges Bank stock component has recovered from its collapse in the 1960s. An anchor tagging study was undertaken by DMR and the herring industry in 2003 to gather new information on the migration and movement of Atlantic herring.

Field Results for 2003

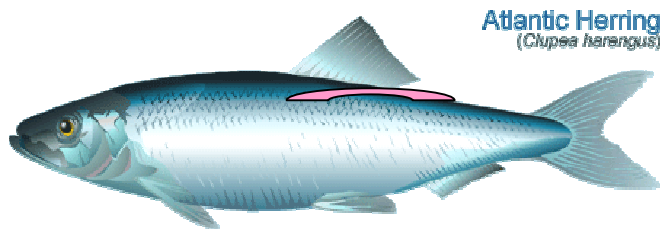
The first field-tagging event occurred in April off of Block Island, RI. Additional tagging trips occurred in June and continued through late October in the Gulf of Maine.

A total of 7,924 herring were tagged and released aboard purse seine vessels with an average of 660 herring tagged per trip. Aboard mid-water trawl vessels fishing with an aquarium codend, 11,884 herring were tagged and released for an average of 849 per trip.

To date, a total of 43 tags have been returned with 229 days being the longest time a herring was at liberty. This fish was originally tagged off of Block Island in April 2003 and then recaptured off of Chatham, MA in December. Ten other herring tagged during the same event as these fish were recovered in Nova Scotia in July of 2003. The following table shows a breakdown of our 2003 season.

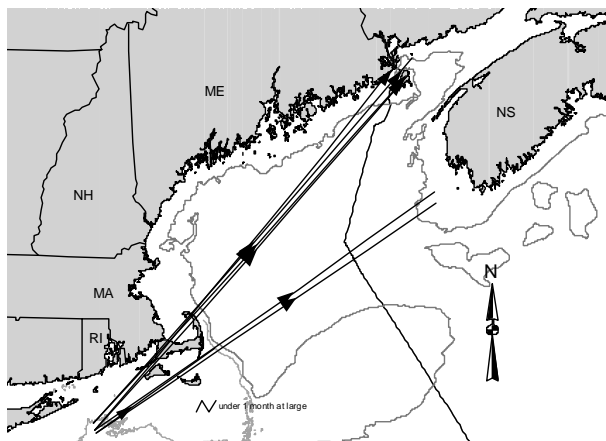
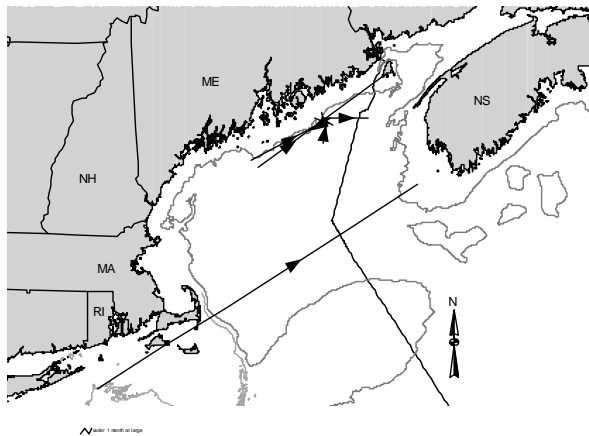
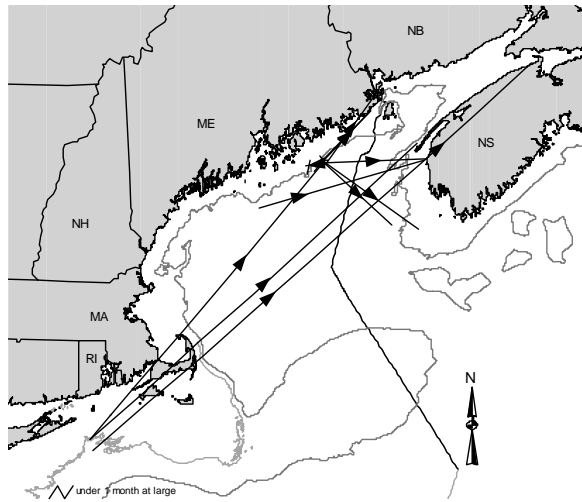
Tag Summary		Returns by Vessel Type		Trip Summary	
Total # of Tags	19,808	Seiners	27	Commercial Trips	12
Returns from Canada	21	Trawlers	10	Chartered Trips	14
Returns from E Maine	17	Other	6	Trips with no fish	5
Returns from W Maine	4				
Returns from MA	1				
Total	43	Total	43	Total	31

Reward posters, tag return forms, and brief project descriptions were sent out to industry members informing them of this program. In order to encourage returns, an annual lottery with a reward of \$1,000 (not supplied by the DMR) will be awarded at the Maine Fishermen's Forum. The lottery winner will be drawn from the names of all individuals that returned tags during 2003. Keep your eyes open for yellow or pink tags in the herring you use for bait. Return them to the DMR with information on where and when you caught or purchased the bait and you will be eligible for the \$1,000 grand prize!



Please contact Kohl Kanwit (207-633-9535) or Erick Schaefer (207-633-9536) with any questions or comments

Herring Project (Cont'd)
DAYS AT LARGE RETURN MAPS



The first map shows returns of less than 1 month at large.
The second map shows returns of between 1- 4 months at large.
The third map shows returns that have been at large over 4 months.
The arrows indicate the direction of travel from the tagging area to the recapture location.

2003 Lobster Sea Sampling

The DMR sea sampling program was initiated in 1985 to collect information directly aboard commercial lobster boats. This program relies entirely on fishermen who volunteer to take samplers on board. Sea sampling provides a unique opportunity to collect information on the legal and more importantly the discarded catch. Biological information is recorded for each lobster caught during the fishing day. Since 1998, each lobster management zone is sampled three times monthly, May through November. Sea sampling data is used to monitor trends in the lobster resource such as the catch rates of sublegal, legal and illegal lobsters (including oversize, egg bearing and V-notch) and will play an important role as a primary source of fishery dependent data for stock assessments. The 2003 sampling season initiatives included exclusive trips in the disputed "gray zone" on the U.S Canadian border, adoption of shell disease scoring criteria, and a collaborative program with Island Institute to employ samplers on islands and in remote communities.

During the 2003 sampling season, 255 sampling trips, accounting for 46,095 trap hauls, were completed (Figure 1). Results for 2003 are summarized by month and zone (Table 1 and Table 2). November had the highest catch rate of V-notch lobsters (1.27 per trap haul) likely the result of an offshore migration in the fall. June saw the highest catch rate of sublegals (1.96 per trap haul), the majority of which molted into the fishery in July and August. Zones A, B and C had the highest proportion of oversize lobsters and lowest numbers of sublegals.

The occurrence of the annual molt signals the start of the most productive "shedder" fishing season. Confirming reports by fishermen throughout the coast, the transition from hard to soft shell was delayed approximately one month in 2003, in DMR samples, as compared to 2003 (Figure 2). Interestingly in western Penobscot Bay there was a three-week lag in equivalent bottom temperatures between years as well (Figure 3). Temperature directly influences metabolic activity in lobsters and likely contributed to the delay in the molting in 2003.

Formally initiated for the 2003 sampling season, all lobsters were scored for shell disease. During the sampling season 122,500 lobsters were measured, only 44 were scored with shell disease covering more than 1% of the shell ranging in size from sublegal to oversize. Of the shell disease lobsters 91% were females. Nearly 45% of larger lobsters (>3.25") that were scored with shell disease had shell disease covering more than 10% of the carapace. Although the incidence of shell disease observed in traps was extremely low in 2003 in Maine, the DMR will continue to monitor this phenomenon in coming years.

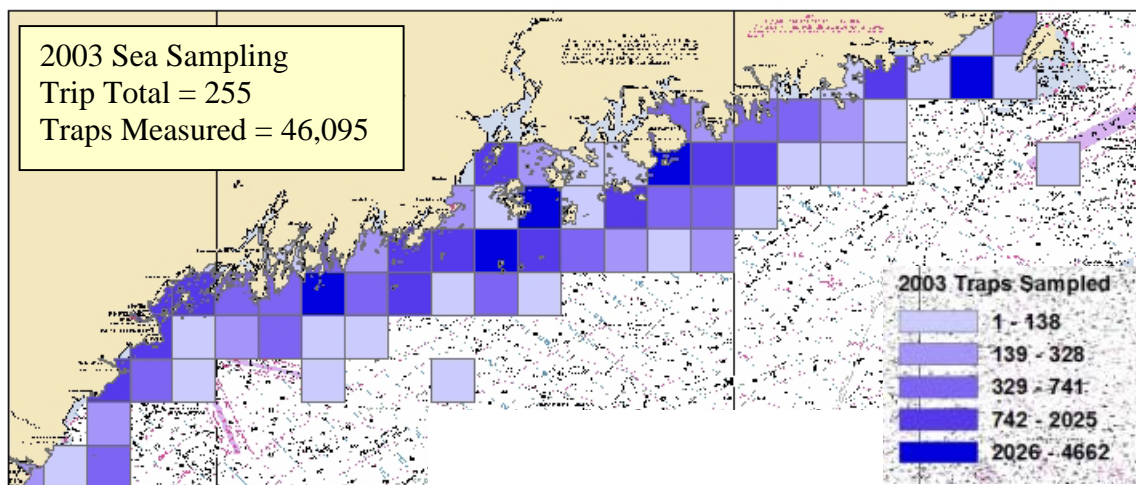


Figure 1. Distribution of traps measured by ten-minute square, during the 2003 sampling season.

2003 Lobster Sea Sampling (Cont'd)

Totals by Trip	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals**
Total Sampling Trips	3	31	39	43	36	38	32	30	252
Total Catch in Pounds	255	4067	6261	5621	10974	17794	15440	18738	79150
Total Catch in Numbers	892	13356	21591	14274	15410	21908	21371	23302	132104
Total Boat Hours	15	221	309	308	276	306	268	251	1954.05
Total number of Trap Hauls	427	4939	6992	7963	6868	7246	5746	5620	45801
Total Number of Legals	233	3403	4692	4362	8441	12489	11507	13415	58542
Total Number of Sublegals	528	8149	13721	7913	5529	7246	7046	5413	55545
Total Number of IllLegals	131	1792	3137	1969	1425	2146	2790	4409	17799
Total Number of Oversize	0	18	103	60	36	84	77	174	552
Total Number of Berried	32	380	864	524	332	401	573	1128	4234
Total Number of Berried with Vnotch	32	368	780	505	325	395	572	1046	4023
Total Number of Berried w/o Vnotch	0	12	84	19	7	6	1	82	211
Total Number of NonBerried with Vnotch	99	1412	2273	1445	1093	1745	2217	3281	13565
Total Lbs/TH*	0.60	0.82	0.90	0.71	1.60	2.46	2.69	3.33	

*Lbs/TH are determined by trips that recorded Lbs caught, not all trips recorded total lbs.

** Trip Totals are based on months where there are three or more trips to satisfy confidentiality rules. February and March were omitted.

CPUE & Depth of Measured Traps (99% measured)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Average Depth Fished	31	23	22	13	14	20	25	31
Average Legals/TH	0.54	0.69	0.67	0.55	1.23	1.72	2.00	2.39
St Dev*	0.77	0.98	0.96	0.90	1.45	1.83	1.91	2.34
Average Illegals/TH	0.31	0.36	0.45	0.25	0.21	0.30	0.49	0.78
St Dev *	0.56	0.72	0.79	0.59	0.51	0.63	0.86	1.30
Average Sublegals/TH	1.23	1.65	1.96	0.99	0.80	1.00	1.23	0.96
St Dev *	1.39	1.88	2.27	1.49	1.26	1.46	1.66	1.38
Average Vnotch/TH	0.31	0.36	0.44	0.24	0.21	0.30	0.49	0.77
St Dev*	0.56	0.72	0.77	0.58	0.51	0.63	0.86	1.27

*St dev is based on averages by trap.

Table 1. Monthly totals for 2003 Lobster Sea Sampling (April through November).

Totals by Trip	A	A-GRAY	B	C	D	E	F	G	Grand Total
Total Sampling Trips	24	16	56	59	41	20	20	19	255
Total Catch in Pounds	7579	7316	16416	18948	13060	8059	3144	4958	79480
Total Catch in Numbers	10814	8326	23967	33223	20707	16592	8226	10681	132536
Total Boat Hours	194	131	424	394	308	191	160	164	1967
Total number of Trap Hauls	4227	2685	9746	10980	7594	4137	3789	2937	174
Total Number of Legals	5681	5461	11353	14282	9675	5636	2706	3917	46095
Total Number of Sublegals	3806	2383	8683	13729	8144	8912	4603	5480	58711
Total Number of IllLegals	1283	441	3896	5147	2871	2037	912	1280	55740
Total Number of Oversize	133	68	117	149	32	29	9	15	17867
Total Number of Berried	376	277	867	1195	714	390	175	259	552
Total Number of Berried with Vnotch	323	277	859	1065	711	390	158	259	4253
Total Number of Berried w/o Vnotch	53	0	8	130	3	0	17	0	4042
Total Number of NonBerried with Vnotch	907	164	3029	3952	2157	1647	737	1021	211
Total Lbs/TH*	1.79	2.72	1.68	1.73	1.72	1.95	0.83	1.69	

*Lbs/TH are determined by trips that recorded Lbs caught, not all trips recorded total lbs.

CPUE by Measured Trap (99% of lobsters measured)	A	A-GRAY	B	C	D	E	F	G
Average Depth Fished	25	42	21	20	19	20	12	16
Average Legals/TH	1.34	2.03	1.16	1.30	1.27	1.36	0.71	1.33
St Dev*	1.63	2.70	1.50	1.69	1.64	1.56	0.98	1.60
Average Illegals/TH	0.30	0.16	0.40	0.47	0.38	0.49	0.24	0.44
St Dev *	0.73	0.45	0.83	0.97	0.71	0.82	0.57	0.75
Average Sublegals/TH	0.90	0.89	0.89	1.25	1.07	2.15	1.21	1.86
St Dev *	1.31	1.17	1.30	1.70	1.57	2.35	1.81	2.04
Average Vnotch/TH	0.29	0.16	0.40	0.46	0.38	0.49	0.24	0.44
St Dev*	0.71	0.45	0.83	0.95	0.71	0.82	0.55	0.75

*St dev is based on averages by trap.

Table 2. Year-end totals for Management Zones A-G and Gray area for the 2003 Lobster Sea Sampling Season (April through November).

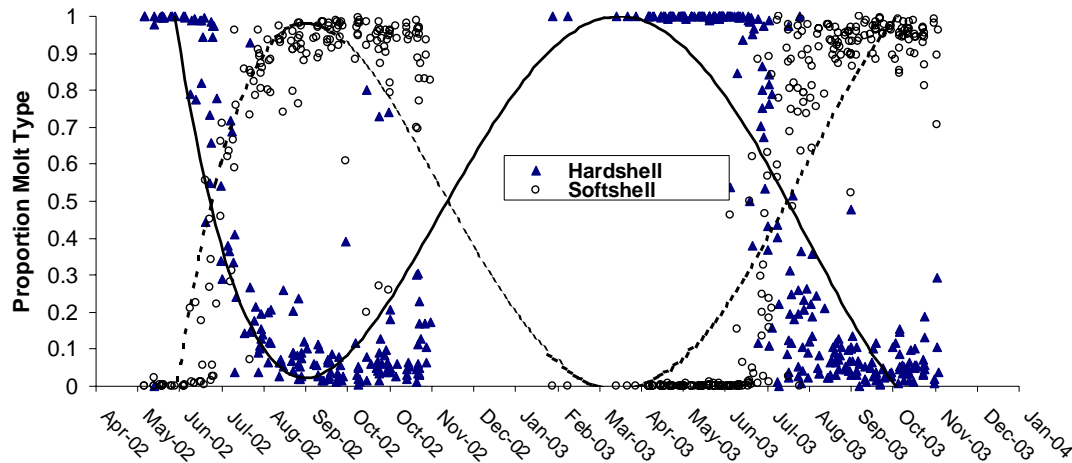


Figure 2. The proportion of hard shell (solid line) and soft shell (broken line) as recorded during sea sampling trips for 2002 and 2003. The annual molt was delayed nearly four weeks in 2003 as compared to 2002.

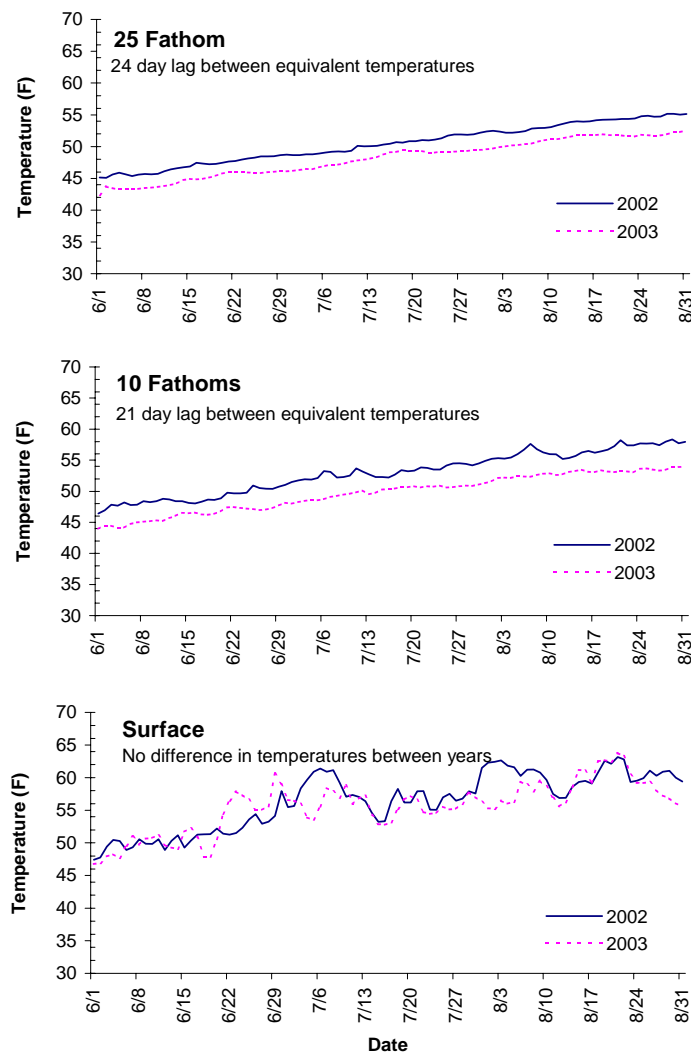


Figure 3. Daily mean temperatures, for the months of June, July and August, at the western Penobscot Bay GoMOOS buoy at Surface, 10 and 25 fathom for 2002 (solid line) and 2003 (broken line). Equivalent temperatures were lagged in 2003 by 24 days and 21 days at 25 and 10 fathom respectively. There was no difference between surface temperatures between years. Data courtesy of GoMOOS and are available at www.gomoos.org.



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
MARINE RESOURCES
21 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

DMR - Hallowell
(207) 624-6550

This newsletter is available on the DMR Web Page at:
<http://www.maine.gov/dmr> Click on **Lobster**

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Contact Numbers

- DMR (Hallowell)	624-6550	- Marine Patrol Div. I	633-9595
- DMR Lab (Boothbay)	633-9500	(NH border to St. Georges River)	
- DMR Lab (Lamoine)	667-5654	- Marine Patrol Div. II	667-3373
- Terry Stockwell	633-9556	(St. Georges River to Canadian border)	
- Resource Mgmt Coord.		- Laura Ludwig	633-9513
- Sarah Cotnoir	624-6596	Whale Take Reduction Coord.	
- Lobster Zone Adm. Asst.		- John Higgins	677-2316
		NMFS Whale Liaison	

Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 15, 7:00 pm – Zone G
Meeting, Kittery Recreational
Center

March 16, 7:00 pm – Zone F
Meeting, Yarmouth Town Hall

March 17, 1:00 pm – DMR
Advisory Council Meeting, DHS,
Civic Center Drive, Augusta

March 17, 5:00 pm – Lobster
Advisory Council Meeting, DHS,
Civic Center Drive, Augusta

March 31, 6:00 pm – Zone E
Meeting, Lincoln County
Communications Center –
Wiscasset

April 6, 6:30 pm – Zone D
Meeting, Rockland Ferry
Terminal

April 8, 6:00 pm – Zone B
Meeting, Mount Desert High
School - Library